

From: [David Gray](#)
To: [Tim Beckstrom](#); [Jeff Dauzat](#); [Gary Moore](#); [Sam Coleman](#)
Cc: [Rodney Mallett](#); [David Gray](#)
Subject: Re: press release
Date: 05/01/2010 05:29 AM

I am continuing to having email problems. I am looping in Gary Moore. I'll need our tech folks to sign off. Also, since Sam is here I'd like his quick review.

Once folks are comfortable - I can help get it through the JIC.

David
David Gray
Director
External and Government Affairs
US EPA
(214) 665-2200 office
(214) 789-2619 mobile
gray.david@epa.gov

Sent from Blackberry

----- Original Message -----

From: Tim Beckstrom [Tim.Beckstrom@LA.GOV]
Sent: 04/29/2010 03:53 PM EST
To: Jeff Dauzat <Jeff.Dauzat@LA.GOV>; David Gray
Cc: Rodney Mallett <Rodney.Mallett@LA.GOV>
Subject: RE: press release

Guys - does this press release look ok?

David - I'm in the GOHSEP trailer outside the bldg - where are you?

From: Rodney Mallett
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2010 3:38 PM
To: Tim Beckstrom; Jeff Dauzat; 'Gray.David@epamail.epa.gov'
Subject: press release

Hey gang. Just wondering y'all read the press release. I understand they are getting odor calls and complaints. I'd like to head this off early to let people know we are doing something, if possible. At least get it to the JIC(s) for their approval.

BATON ROUGE - The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and its federal partners have ramped up air quality testing as oil from a spill in the Gulf moves closer to the state.

The agencies are working closely with the Department of Health and Hospitals to ensure any potential adverse health effects to residents near the affected areas are identified quickly and proper warning systems can be activated.

Since the burns of free floating oil have begun, U. S. Coast Guard strike teams have been conducting air monitoring around the sites and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will provide area monitoring in coastal communities that may be affected. The contaminants of interest will be particulates and volatile organic compounds emitted from oil. EPA began taking background air samples yesterday at communities along the coast to gather background air information.

DEQ will be assisting EPA by taking more frequent air samples with the Kenner and Chalmette air monitors. These samples will receive quick turnaround by being analyzed at EPA labs.

If DEQ or other agencies discover that there will be an air quality issue either with the burns of the oil spill moving toward the coast, the EnviroFlash Air Quality Notification System can be used to create a manual email to send statewide or targeted for the affected areas This e-mail can outline the problem and any precautions that might need to be taken.

State Health Officer Dr. Jimmy Guidry advises that there are no indications of health risks to Louisiana residents at this time. However, any change in air quality may affect citizens with certain medical conditions. Dr.Guidry advises:

- * Anyone who is concerned about change in air quality due to this event should contact their primary health care provider, as each of us has a unique health profile.
- * As with wildfires and other events that increases particulate matter in the air, consider staying inside, in an air-conditioned room and change the air-conditioner filter to ensure peak performance.
- * Avoid strenuous activities outside.
- * If you have difficulty breathing, shortness of breath or other serious symptoms, seek immediate medical attention.

There may also be concerns from odors emanating from the spill. Odors, while not necessarily harmful, can still affect residents. Those effects may lead to nausea, vomiting, and perhaps headaches. When you get away from the odors, these effects will stop faster than if those same effects are due to something else.

For now, if the odor bothers you, move indoors, close the doors and windows, and turn on your air conditioning.

"We are working hand-in-hand with our regional medical directors across the affected areas, as well as the Department of Environmental Quality to ensure that reports of any health concerns are being addressed quickly and effectively," Dr. Guidry said. "As with any environmental incident, residents who are concerned about their health should consult their physicians."